



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Jacksonville District

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONTINUES RELEASE FROM LAKE OKEECHOBEE

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Due to heavy rainfall in the vicinity of Lake Okeechobee and the Kissimmee River Basin, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin a Level 2 pulse release from the lake to the Caloosahatchee River and the St. Lucie Canal on Monday, July 7, 2003. Lake Okeechobee releases south have stopped because the WCAs are above their respective regulation schedules. In addition, regional water supply demands have ceased, resulting in reduced discharges from the lake.

Pulse releases are designed to mimic nature and provide discharges from the lake to the estuaries via the St. Lucie Canal to the east and the Caloosahatchee River to the west. They attempt to strike a balance between the lake's littoral zone and the estuaries. In the future, the ongoing Everglades restoration, known as CERP, is designed to provide storage for much of this water and minimize these types of releases.

Tuesday's lake level was 15.30 feet, in Zone D of the WSE (Water Supply/Environment) regulation schedule, approximately 0.40 feet below Zone C. As the wet season progresses, additional pulse releases may be necessary. This pulse release will continue for 10 days at an average rate of 2300 cubic feet

per second (cfs) to the Caloosahatchee River and 950 cfs to the St. Lucie Canal.

The pulse release will be made through Structures S-77 and S-80.

For further information, please call the Jacksonville District Public Affairs Office at 904-232-2236 or 904-614-4976.